

REMARKS

The Examiner is first thanked for the very helpful interview conducted on August 13, 2003 in this application. At the interview, agreement was reached with the Examiner that the invention as defined in claim 13 distinguished over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. In the claims as now amended, each of the remaining independent claims 1, 6 and 21 now effectively include the limitations of claim 13, which has now been canceled. It is therefore believed that the application as now amended is in *prima facie* condition for allowance, and the same is respectfully requested.

Also at the interview, the 37 CFR 1.131 Affidavit was discussed, and applicant's representative indicated that the factual support for the Affidavit inherently supported the conclusions recited in the Affidavit. In response, the Examiner indicated that the Affidavit may be clarified with regard to the "S" curve described in the supporting documents. Although the above amendments distinguish over the art of record, this should not be construed as an admission that the cited art is prior art with respect to the present invention.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner noted the language of the claims, referring to the two origins of curvature, as being confusing, as any two points may have a line drawn therebetween. In the claims as now amended, the curvatures are defined as having an axis of curvature, which is believed to address the noted informality. Other claims have been amended to be in accord with the independent claims on which they are based.

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The applicant has attempted to clearly place the application in condition for allowance, and it is believed that the claims are now in *prima facie* condition for allowance based upon the agreement reached at the interview with the Examiner. Favorable action hereon is thought to be in order and is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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